

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

APR 17 1975

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: RICHARD A. ABELL  
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: MAY 7 / 1931  
PRIMARY MEDIA FABRIC / FIBER / ENAMEL  
ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:  
WHOLE SCHOOLING  
CLEVELAND / ADOPTED  
KANSAS CITY / MO.

enclosed resume

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

MINNESOTA MUSEUM OF ART - ST. PAUL  
SHELDON MEMORIAL ART GALLERY / LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

AWARDS:

1974 - MINNESOTA STATE FAIR / REGIONAL

PRESENT POSITION:

ASSOC. PROF. / DESIGN / COLLEGE OF HOME ECONOMICS  
\*\*\*\*\*

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



Richard Arthur Abell  
1178 Burns Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106

phone: 772-2833  
social security # 229-32-7212  
born: May 7, 1931  
Kansas City, Missouri  
married: wife, Jeanne C. Abell

Home: Studio workshop/call in advance  
"craft peddler workshop"  
will accept design commissions and advertising for  
custom specifications for home and commercial business  
available for lecturer/demonstrations and slide presentations  
drawing, water color, graphic media  
fabric, fibers, printing-dyeing  
color, design and crafts, illustrations  
theatre design/sets and costumes  
recreational programs for children and adults  
organize craft shops

Education:

1945-1949 High School/Bay Village, Ohio  
1949-1954 The Cleveland Institute of Art  
Cleveland, Ohio  
4 year certificate fabric design  
Graduate School  
BFA: sculpture  
minors: painting/drawing  
design  
enameling on metal  
1954-1956 Cranbrook Academy of Art  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan  
Graduate School  
MFA: textiles/fibers  
industrial design

Scholarships:

1950-1953 Ranney Grant of half tuition to  
Cleveland Institute of Art  
1953 Mary C. Paige  
\$1,000.00 Traveling Scholarship  
Cleveland Institute of Art  
1954 Ellen Scripps Booth  
\$750.00 for Cranbrook Academy of Art  
1955-1956 Tuition Grant, Cranbrook Academy of Art  
supervising silk screen studio  
(plus additional grant for room and board/duties  
in the Cranbrook kitchens)



Continuing Education

workshop and seminars attended

- 1965 •dye workshop  
Francis Siminoff  
University of Minnesota and Weaver's Guild
- 1971 •"Fiber as Medium" Conference  
Los Angeles, California
- 1973 •Dye workshop, Japanese  
Kohrogi-husband and wife  
St. Peter, Minnesota
- 1973 •Lighting for art galleries and museums  
General Electric/nela park  
Cleveland, Ohio
- 1975 DOUBLEWEAVE / GARMENTS WORKSHOP / ROZ BERLIN  
1975 CHEMICAL DYEING / WORKSHOP

Professional Career

Currently employed

- 1966-1975 Associate professor  
College of Home Economics  
Design Department  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota
- 1962-1975 Summer: Creative Activities Building  
Minnesota State Fair/exhibition design
- 1959-1966 Associate professor  
Related Art Department  
School of Home Economics  
University of Minnesota  
courses taught:  
fabric-fiber structures and  
surfaces/silk screen, batik  
tie dying, bleaching, woven  
and non-woven/visual presentation/  
drawing/design I, II/color I, II/  
crafts I and II including enameling  
on metal, glass mosaics, painted wood,  
puppet personalities, wood, paper mache'  
plastics, graphic printing techniques  
exhibition display, point of sale, posters,  
mailers, illustrations.
- 1968-1972 Raja Studio Crafts  
own studio.crafts/textiles/graphics  
2244 Carter Avenue/St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
with wife, Jeanne C. Abell

Recent Teaching Summer Workshops

- 1975 • 1974 Quadna/Extension/McPhail  
printing and dying fabric by hand
- 1973 Quadna/Extension/McPhail  
landscape painting
- 1972 Arrowmount School of Arts and Crafts  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
Fabric printing and dying



Recent Teaching Summer Workshops (continued)

1972	St. Cloud State College/Shingwauk pleasures/pastimes and amusements toys and puppets
1971	St. Cloud State College/Shingwauk woven textiles

Past positions

1952-1954	*Designed and executed window displays for men's furnishing shop in Bay Village, Ohio
1956	*Graphic packaging industrial designer/ color consultant Harley Earl, Inc. Center Line, Michigan (6 months until drated into the U.S. Army) Projects: experimental package designs for "U.S. Rubber" and "Alcoa" aluminum accounts/ power loomed "Trilock" textiles in Winnsboro, South Carolina
1956-1958	*U.S. Army Stationed U.S. Army Exhibit Unit exhibit/photo lab technician transferred to U.S. Army Security Agency Arlington Hall Station Arlington, Virginia (illustrator-visual aids)
1958-1959	*The Hecht Company Washington D.C. display layout designer graphic artist
1962	*Summer Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Gallery

Past Teaching Experience

1949-1955	Northern Ohio Community Art Groups Baycrafters/Bay Village, Ohio private classes/Rocky River, Ohio
1954	University of Tennessee Summer Extension Arrowmount Gatlinburg design and textile design
1955	Highland Park, Michigan YWCA Crafts
1955-1956	Cranbrook Academy of Art silk screen supervisor
1957-1958	Ft. Meyer, Arlington, Virginia U.S. Army Craft Shop (part-time)



1960-1961	St. Anthony Park Library Association summer classes/St. Paul water color for children
1968-1969	Weaver's Guild of Minnesota
1961	Crafts/Home for the Blind Eustis Avenue, St. Paul
1965	Cragun's Resort Gull Lake (1 week workshop/general crafts)
1965-1966	University of Minnesota Nolte Center for Continuing Education/extension classes in plastics/primitive weaving/color/ paper mache/batik

Commissions/Commerical

- \*free lanced advertising publicity, (brochures posters) St. Paul Schubert Club.
- \*executed graphics for Blue Shield of Minnesota at a Minneapolis Medical Convention
- 1969 \*brochures for Art Education of Minnesota Spring conference
- \*Touch and See Room/First One/Bell Museum of Natural History/Minneapolis  
exhibition design with wife
- \*Minnesota State Fair  
super graphic murals with wife  
Mexican Village/Education Building  
Creative Activities/Dairy Building Banners

Represented in permanent collections:

The Cleveland Museum of Art  
Minnesota Museum of Art  
The Cleveland Women's City Club  
~~pending 1974~~ Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery/University of Nebraska,  
**PURCHASED** Lincoln, Nebraska  
**2 FABRICS**

Paintings/drawings/textiles for personal

adornment many private collections/have never  
kept a record of patrons

Exhibition record:

Juried Awards:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1953 | First prize Rome Collaborative - national competition<br>with architects from Western Reserve University -<br>designed the murals/materials/plastic and encaustic                             |
| 1954 | Second prize Rome Collaborative - national competition<br>with architects from Western Reserve University -<br>designed the sculpture reliefs and fountain<br>materials glass/enamel or metal |
| 1954 | Cleveland Museum of Art May Show - First Award -<br>printed textiles. Regional  |
| 1955 | Detroit Institution of Arts - First Award -<br>printed textiles. Regional.  |



- 1955 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show - Special Award  
for group of serigraph textiles
- 1955 Detroit Institution of Art - Third Award - Christmas  
card competition
- 1955 St. Paul, Minnesota - Fiber-Clay-Metal Exhibition at  
St. Paul Art Center - purchase award. National
- 1956 Detroit Institution of Arts - Honorable Mention for  
group of textiles. Regional
- 1956 Temple Israel, Detroit, Michigan - Outstanding woven  
textile wall hanging. Area Exhibition.
- 1957 Chicago Museum of Art - Midwest Designer Craftsman:  
Special Award for woven 6" x 12' Flossa rug. National
- 1957 12th Annual Area Exhibition - Washington D.C.,  
Corcoran Gallery of Art - Woven textile award. Regional
- 1958 Cleveland Museum of Art Show. Regional.  
First Award - printed textiles  
Second Award - woven textiles
- 1958 Third Biennial Exhibiton of Creative Crafts, Smithsonian  
Institution, Washington, D.C. National  
First Award - printed textiles  
Second Award - printed textiles
- 1958 13th Annual Area Exhibition. Regional.  
Corcoran Gallery of Art  
Special Textile Award
- 1958 Ft. Meyer, ARLington, Virginia, U.S. Army  
Crafts in Action Exhibition  
First Award - painting  
Third Award - painting
- 1959 Wichita National Exhibition. Kansas  
First Award - rug. National loomed
- 1959 Cleveland May Show. Regional  
First Award - group of textiles/printed
- 1961 Fifth Midwest Designer - Craftsman Exhibition. Regional  
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska  
Des Moines Art Center. Des Moines, Iowa  
Award of Merit - Batik fabric
- 1961 Minnesota State Fair, State Competition  
Honorable Mention for drawing and weaving
- 1963 Minnesota State Fair. State Competition  
First Award - textiles
- 1964 Minnesota State Fair. State Competition  
First Award - textiles
- 1965 Minnesota State Fair  
Honorable mention - watercolor
- 1966 Minnesota State Fair  
Honorable mention - prints
- 1967 Minnesota State Fair: invited  
Minnesota Craftsmans Council Exhibition
- 1969 Minnesota State Fiar. State Competition  
First Award - textiles/weaving rug
- 1970 Minnesota State Fair. State Competition  
Second Award
- 1971 Minnesota State Fair. State Competition/weaving rug  
Third Award



- 1972 Minnesota State Fair. State Competition/weaving rug  
Honorable Mention
- 1974 Minnesota State Fair. Merit regional award  
surface fabric

Additional Exhibitions:

- 1950 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1951 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1952 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1953 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show. State/Ohio
- 1954 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1955 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1958 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1972 Cleveland Museum of Art May Show
- 1974 Creative Activities Building, Minnesota State Fair  
surface fabric printing and clothing
- 1952 "Cleveland Textiles" - The Cleveland Museum of Art Area Exhibition
- 1953 "Cleveland Textiles" - The Cleveland Museum of Art Area Exhibition
- 1955 "Cleveland Textiles" - The Cleveland Museum of Art Area Exhibition
- 1952 Serigraphs at the Cleveland Art Colony in a group show  
"Ten New Faces"
- 1953 One-man Exhibition of Enamels at the Woman's City Clue  
Cleveland, Ohio
- 1954 Wichita, Kansas. National
- 1955 Detroit Institute of Arts Area Painting Exhibition, Regional
- 1955-1956 1956-1957  
Cranbrook Academy of Art Students Show and Traveling Exhibition
- 1956 New York City, Invitational. Represented in the first  
exhibition of the Museum of Contemporary Crafts.  
National
- 1957 National Ceramic Exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D.C.
- 1957-1958  
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition  
(included enamels)
- 1958 Alexandria, Virginia  
The Studio Gallery  
Virginia Printmakers Exhibition
- 1959 St. Paul Art Center. National  
Fiber-Clay-Metal
- 1959 International Trade Fairs  
Tunis, Tunisia; Morocco, Casablanca; Bari, Italy  
U.S. Department of Commerce, represented with enamels
- 1960 Invitational - Grand Rapids Gallery, Michigan  
"Contemporary Textiles"
- 1960 Michigan - Craftsman  
Detroit Institute of Arts. Regional
- 1960 "Designed and Handcrafted for Use" National  
Museum of Contemporary Crafts. Juried Exhibition
- 1960 Represented textiles in Traveling Exhibition  
Sponsored by the American Federation of Arts
- 1961 St. Paul Art Center  
Twin City Area Artist Exhibition



1975. ST. ANTHONY PARK STATE BANK. 10 FABRICS / MAY 1975  
1975. ART EDUCATORS OF MINNESOTA / CRAGUWS / 20 FABRICS

- 1964 Minnesota State Fair
- 1965 Minnesota State Fair
- 1961 One-man show. Textiles  
Art Institute of Chicago  
August 26 - October 29
- 1963 Husband-wife exhibition  
College of St. Thomas, St. Paul in September
- 1962 Husband-wife exhibition  
St. Paul Campus, Student Center in March
- 1964 Husband-wife exhibition  
Suzanne Kohn Gallery, St. Paul
- 1965 Minnesota Craftsmen's Council  
Exhibition at Minnesota Museum of Art in December
- 1970 VI West/Cedar Rapids Iowa Art Center
- 1973 Minnesota Crafts "73  
Minnesota Museum of Art

1975 MINNESOTA CRAFTSMAN / ROCHESTER / MINNESOTA

Additional work has been exhibited at:

- .Canton Art Institute
- .Birmingham Museum of Art
- .Antioch College
- .Ohio State University
- .Abilene Fine Art Museum
- .Patronato de Bellas Artes y Museoa Nacionales, Havana, Cuba
- .Flint Institute of Arts
- .Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego
- .National Housing Center, Washington, D.C.

1960-1966 Represented in many Minnesota art craft fairs

- .10:30 Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- .At home in May-Fresh AirAFair
- .White Bear Lake Sidewalk Exhibit
- .Creative Arts, Wayzata, Minnesota
- .Alley 29, St. Paul - closed 1963
- .Collector's Gallery, Minneapolis - closed 1963
- .St. Anthony Park Community Craft Fair
- .Signal Hills Art Fair
- .Creative Activities Building, State Fair
- .Extension Exhibit of Crafts to tour state
- .Gragun's Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minnesota

Juror and Designer for Industry

- 1963 Juror of Exhibition in June  
Rockville, Maryland
- 1963 Juror of Rural Art Show  
St. Paul Campus
- 1966 Juror 3-M promotion  
Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing  
calendar and paintings
- 1963-1964 Juror Home Activities  
Minnesota State Fair
- 1965 Design students in Department did  
experiments with 3-M art fabric/paper dyeing



Juror and Designer for Industry (continued)

- 1965 Design students  
did experiments with Faribo Woolen Mill materials

Lecturer and demonstrator

- 1965 The Central Minnesota Education Association - St. Cloud
- 1966 The Minnesota Education Association - Minneapolis
- 1968 The Industrial Recreation Association/University of Minnesota  
extension workshop
- 1968 Clovia's Founder's Day
- 1968 Edina Schools Art Department - one day critique
- 1968 Minnesota Home Economics Association
- 1967 Crafts for the family/Extension - University of Minnesota
- 1969 Workshops/School of Art/University of Manitoba
- 1971 Austin Junior College
- 1967 Town and Country Art Show - St. Paul
- The Weaver's Guild of Minnesota
- Art Educators of Minnesota
- KUOM Radio and KTCA Educational TV
- 1968 State Home Economics Meeting/Fall
- National Meeting/American Home Economics Association - Minneapolis
- Twin City Home Economists in Homemaking
- Smithsonian Institution via Weaver's Guild of Washington, D.C.
- The Baycrafters, Bay Village, Ohio
- The Vermillion Ohio Art Group
- Rochester Art Center, Minnesota
- American Farm Economics National Meeting
- 1962 County Home Agent Demonstration - Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
with the American Crayon Representative
- Medical wives of Minneapolis/Dentistry Wives of St. Paul
- American Association of University Women - St. Paul and  
Minneapolis
- 1965 Minnesota State Fair/Home Activities  
University of Minnesota
- 1962 Faculty Woman's Club
- 1968 Faculty Woman's Club - Art group
- 1967 Redwood Falls, Minnesota
- 1966 Winona State Teachers College, Minnesota
- 1969 Mankato State College, Minnesota/Future Homemakers of America
- 1969 Food Photography Workshop
- 1969 University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
- 1970 Reindeer House for the Handicapped
- 1971 White Bear Lake Art Show
- 1972 Alexandria Vocational Technical
- 1973 Bemidji State College/batik and dye workshop
- 1973 Twin City Home Economists/Minneapolis
- 1973 Cleveland, Ohio Embroideries Guild
- 1973 Mankato State College
- 1973 NSP Art Appreciation Program/Minneapolis
- 1974 MHEA - Home Economics program/Minneapolis  
"Innocent Leisure Entertainments"



Lecturer and demonstrator (continued)

- 1974 Midwest Weaver's Conference
  - "Experiences, Enrichments, Embellishments"
  - Surfaces - Fabric-Fiber
- 1974 personalities/dolls/ammusements
  - Weaver's Guild of Minnesota
- 1975 Cleveland Embroideries Guild
  - Cleveland, Ohio

1975 DAYTON'S DEPT. STORE / CONSUMER SEMINAR / FABRIC DESIGN

Additional Experiences

Stage design and scene painting

1947-1949 Theatre Training

Cleveland Playhouse

1949-1954 designed and executed stage sets for:

Bay Village Players productions:

"The Madwoman of Chaillot"

"Blithe Spirit"

"Anne of a Thousand Days"

"An Inspector Calls"

"Happy Birthday"

"All my Sons"

"Bell, Book and Candle"

1954 designed stage sets for the

Gateway Stock Company, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

"Ah Wilderness"

"Moonshine and Honeysuckle"

1961-1962 Punchinello Players stage sets, St. Paul Campus

"Antigone"

"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"

1963 designed and painted stage sets for children's production

"The Emperor's New Clothes"

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

1970-1971 design student banners installed at the YWCA/St. Paul and

the School of Art, University of Manitoba/Winnipeg

1975 mural / WOOD ASSEMBLEGE / BRIDGEMAN ICE CREAM PARLOR

Other activities and experiences

1959-1958 worked on stage decorations for Christian Assemblies,  
Watchtower, Bible and Tract Society: held in the  
following cities in Minnesota

Red Wing Rochester

Hastings Maplewood

Winona Austin

St. Paul South St. Paul

Owatonna

1974 costumes/prop construction for Bible drama

St. Paul, Minnesota assembly in July

Professional Organizations

1974-75 Minnesota Craftsman Council - member

1974-75 Weaver's Guild of Minnesota - member



For references contact:

Dr. Gertrude Esteros  
Chairman, Design Department  
College of Home Economics  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
telephone: 373-1017

Dr. Keith McFarland  
Dean  
College of Home Economics  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
telephone: 373-0932

Dr. James Roy  
Chairman, Art Department  
St. Cloud State College  
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301

Dr. Marion Nelson  
Director  
Norwegian American Museum  
Decorah, Iowa  
1801 Franklin Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414  
telephone: 336-0490

Dr. Reid Hastie  
2114 65th Place  
Eastern Texas University  
Lubbock, Texas 79412

Mrs. Henrick (Evelyn)Hagen  
Superintendent of Creative Activities  
Minnesota State Fair  
4416 West 58th Street  
Edina, Minnesota 55424  
telephone: 926-4669

Mrs. Hazel Stoeckeler  
2431 Como Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
telephone: 646-8720

Dr. Robert Burningham  
1243 East 4th Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106  
telephone: 771-7375



Mrs. Ayers (Marion) Bagley  
2107 Kenwood Parkway  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405  
telephone: 377-5162

Mr. Robert Moulton  
Theatre Arts  
48 Melbourne Avenue S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414  
telephone: 333-6772

Museum travel exposure in photography with  
Dr. Robert Burningham  
fabric/fiber/Eskimo/art/crafts

John Michael Kohler Gallery, Cheboygan, Wisconsin;  
Minnesota Historical Society Indian Museum; Minnesota  
Museum of Art; Stout State College, Menominee, Wisconsin;  
University of Manitoba, Canada; University of Wisconsin,  
Madison; Milwaukee City Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin,  
Norwegian American Museum Decorah, Iowa

additional exposure

Chicago: Chicago Art Institute, Museum of Science and Industry  
Field Museum of Natural History, Oriental Institute;  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Corning Glass, Detroit Institute  
of Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Freer Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
Cocoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Toledo Ohio Art  
Museum and others.

Practical personal experience:

have designed and remodeled these past 20 years  
3 houses  
3 studios  
4 apartments

\* can present a presentation and discussion of student work

\* can present a portfolio of my own work

\* future dreams vs reality

cultural shock/trip to Mexico and Central American to visit folk  
craftsmen before next employment: experience.

\* trying to gain maturity in developing mental attitude and heart condition  
for life in Bible Study.

\*inspiration or historical influence on personal work:

.continual changing - time lapse in life, growth and spatial relationships

.color vaccination to observe and to imagine



- .pleasure in working with raw materials
- .pleasure in working with people in generation of ages
- .to explore scale of design for the intimate human and architectural spectacles and illusions
- .painted wood/~~amusement~~/folk art
- .continual line in fiber/fabric and graphic images
- .theatrical and exhibition design and performance and light
- .creative potential/art and design should be evaluated thru portfolio/slide presentation and personal interview
- .interested more in foreground than background